

## **SUMMARY**

### *E2SSB 5127 TRAUMA CARE SERVICE FUNDING*

The Trauma Care Service Funding Act (SB5127) amend RCW 70.168 (Trauma Care Act) to provide dedicated funding for providers of trauma care services in Washington to offset unreimbursed trauma care.

**Effective Date:** January 1998

#### **Who Can Receive Funds?**

The Act provides funds “only for the state trauma system providers including Emergency Medical Services, Trauma Care Services, Trauma Rehabilitation Services, and development of such services (section 2).

This would include:

- Verified EMS Services;
- Designated Trauma Services (including designated trauma rehabilitation services);
- Physicians who care for trauma patients at a designated facility;
- Reimbursement by DSHS to designated trauma services

For major trauma care as defined in RCW 70.168.

#### **Major Trauma Defined:**

The Trauma Care Act of 1990 defines trauma as:

“A major single or multi system injury requiring immediate medical or surgical intervention or treatment to prevent death or permanent disability.” (RCW 70.168)

It is further operationally defined in WAC through the Prehospital Triage Tool, Trauma Registry Inclusion Criteria, and by Injury Severity Scores to assure inclusion of only seriously injured patients.

#### **Method:**

DOH is required to establish by rule a grant program that requires regional matching in a 75% to 25% ratio (may be “soft” match).

#### **Source of Funds:**

1. \$5.00 surcharge on traffic infraction;
2. \$4.00 of a \$6.50 documentation fee on the sale or lease of any new or used vehicle (the remaining \$2.50 will go to the dealer).

#### **Account:**

The funds will be deposited in the Trauma Trust Account which was established in 1988 in RCW 70.168.

#### **Expected State Revenues Available:**

FY 98-99 (January 1998 – June 1999) \$16,753,000 plus \$4,600,000 GFS to DSHS

FY 99-01 (July 1999 – June 2001) \$23,737,000 including \$9,200,000 to DSHS

FY 01-03 (July 2001 – June 2003) \$24,506,000 including \$9,200,000 to DSHS

#### **Opportunities for Federal Match:**

1. The fund may support the DSHS reimbursement of designated Trauma Services for care of the medically indigent trauma patient (\$4.6 million per year) which is federally matched.
2. DHO & DSHS will work together to maximize federal matching opportunities (DSHS project 20 – 30% federal match could be acquired). This could generate another \$5 million to \$7 million for trauma care.